
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Executive Order 78

ESTABLISHING THE GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

The Commonwealth of Virginia has a strong and dedicated workforce, and is committed to ensuring that all Virginians have an opportunity to contribute to its success. A key component of the state workforce is the construction industry, which faces unique challenges in recruiting, training, and maintaining high-quality workers in the 21st century

In Virginia, more than 20,000 construction firms employ more than 214,000 Virginians at an average annual wage of \$35,000. Projections show that the growth in the construction industry will result in more than 4,300 new job openings per year by 2010. Without a strong effort now, Virginia runs the risk of having many of these good jobs go unfilled, or filled with less than qualified individuals, which would have serious negative consequences for the economy of the Commonwealth. It is imperative that the state begin planning now to ensure an adequate supply of properly skilled workers for the construction industry.

Establishment of the Task Force

By virtue of the authority vested in me under Article V of the *Constitution of Virginia*, and by Section 2.2-134 of the Code of Virginia, I hereby establish the Governor's Task Force on Workforce Development in the Construction Industry (the "Task Force").

The Task Force is classified as a gubernatorial advisory commission in accordance with Sections 2.2-134, 2.2-135, and 2.2-2100 of the Code of Virginia. The purpose of this Task Force shall be to address ways to prepare the Commonwealth's workforce to fill anticipated shortages in the construction industry as a result of high projected employment opportunities for the remainder of this decade.

The Task Force shall have 21 members appointed by the Governor and serving at his pleasure, including a chairman as designated by the Governor. In addition, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Commerce and Trade, and the Special Advisor for Workforce Development, or their designees, shall serve as non-voting, ex-officio members of the Task Force. Members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation. The Governor may add additional members to the Task Force at his discretion.

Duties of the Task Force

The Task Force shall:

1. Explore ways that the Commonwealth can expand the capacity to respond to pressing workforce needs in the construction industry;
2. Develop ways to integrate public and private resources, encompassing the K-12 sector as well as post-secondary, businesses, the Virginia Career Education Foundation, and apprentice related entities;
3. Make recommendations on how to develop more effective career ladders for individuals to pursue careers in the construction industry; and
4. Make other recommendations to the Governor as may be appropriate.

The Task Force shall make its recommendations in a first report to the Governor by December 1, 2004, and a second report to the Governor by July 1, 2005.

Staff Support for the Task Force

Such staff support as is necessary for the conduct of the Task Force's work during the term of its existence shall be furnished by the Department of Labor and Industry, the Department of Business Assistance, the Virginia Community College System, the Department of Education, and such other executive agencies as the Governor may designate. An estimated 500 hours of staff time will be required to support the Task Force.

Such funding as is necessary for the term of the Task Force's existence shall be provided from sources, including both private and appropriated funds, contributed or appropriated for purposes related to the work of the Task Force, as authorized by Section 2.2-135(B) of the *Code of Virginia*. Direct expenditures for the Task Force's work are estimated to be \$5,000.

This Executive Order shall be effective upon its signing, and shall remain in full force and effect until August 31, 2005, unless amended or rescinded by further executive order. Given under my hand and under the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia, this 1st day of September, 2004.

Mark R. Warner, Governor

Attest:

Secretary of the Commonwealth